



Figure Glans penis protruding through defect in foreskin.

anatomical abnormality which had not been present on his last clinic attendance twelve months previously when treated for gonorrhoea. He denied trauma or attempted circumcision and accepted a surgical referral for definitive circumcision.

Many sub-preputial ulcers involving the coronal sulcus are seen in uncircumcised Zulu men and healing may follow a protracted course despite correct treatment. In this case serological testing for syphilis was negative and granuloma inguinale or chancroid were the most likely original infections. Tissue contraction during healing and trauma from subsequent intercourse probably accounted for the appearances found. The potential risk of HIV transmission to such patients might be reduced by making circumcision more readily available, thereby improving hygiene and facilitating speedier healing of ulcers.

This patient declined a test for HIV antibodies.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Opportunistic infections in patients with the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. Edited by Gifford Leoung and John Mills. (US\$107.) New York: Marcel Dekker 1989.

I can think of no better recommendation for this book than the fact that since it arrived on my desk by courtesy of Genitourinary Medicine I have genuinely read it with interest and referred to it a number of times. Had I not been asked to review it I almost certainly would have ignored it – like everyone else tired of the plethora of such books published in the last few years. This one really does have some distinguishing attributes, however.

Its senior editor, John Mills, is the Professor of Medicine at the University of California and is also Chairman of the Opportunistic Infection Committee of the National AIDS Clinical Trials Group. He has managed to select as his contributors authors who are well known for being both clinicians with "hands on" experience as well as for performing original work in their field. There are few in the list of contributors who are not "household names".

The book is divided into four sections. The first, a general introduction, reviews (very) briefly the epidemiology, virology and immunology of HIV infection, including a chapter by Suzanne Crow on the clinical and laboratory features of "acute" HIV infection. The second section outlines the evaluation of certain clinical problems eg. neurological disease, skin and oral manifestations and the care of children with HIV infection. Important omissions here (although partly covered elsewhere) are respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms. Similarly although the chapter on neurological disease in the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome by Levy and Bredesen covers in some detail the investigation of "hard" neurological symptoms and signs, nowhere in the book are the psychological and psychiatric manifestations of opportunistic infection covered – a common problem in clinical practice.

The third section is the real strength of the book, where the major opportunistic infections seen in AIDS are grouped by aetiological agent. (It is interesting that *Pneumocystis carinii* is still included as a protozoa despite recent claims that phylogenetically it is actually a fungus). Some of the more unusual clinical problems are included here such as the endemic mycoses (*Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Coccidioides immitis* and *Candida albicans*). Each chapter is not only a very complete review of the literature to the present time, well and clearly referenced, but provides sound clinical advice, indicating where more research needs to be done and in which areas this is progressing.

The fourth and last section of the book covers the optimal use of diagnostic laboratories for the evaluation of patients with AIDS, including a useful brief review of the various methods of detecting and confirming the presence of HIV itself.

Any physician who cares for AIDS patients, especially one who does not have the time to plough through the innumerable publications on the subject, will find this an accurate informative up-to-date reference book. Its only drawback, for those not fortunate enough to be asked to review it, is its cost (\$107). The text is, however, clearly and luxuriously printed on high quality paper with clear diagrams and both colour and black and white prints (some particularly good colour prints of the oral manifestations of HIV infection).

I would recommend that you reserve a copy at your nearest library!

SM FORSTER

Herpes simplex virus by Adrian Mindel. (Pp 164; DM 150) Heidelberg, Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3-540-19549-1

Dr Mindel states in the preface to this book that it is written from a clinical perspective and that consequently clinical sections dominate whilst those dealing with virology, immunology, epidemiology, pathology and pathogenesis are "relatively brief". The aim of the book he tells us, is to bring together all these various aspects of herpetic disease. In this he succeeds brilliantly.

The book is a model of readability and brevity (attributes not often possessed by medical authors) whilst

1 Maiti H, Haye KR. Mystery of the holey prepuce: delayed podophyllin skin damage? *Genitourin Med* 1989;65:201.

at the same time it manages to appraise critically, albeit briefly, much of the important modern literature on the disease.

For anyone interested in herpes this is a treasure house of information all of it illuminated or analysed by the author whose great interest in, and knowledge of the subject shines out on every page.

To take a specific example of this style, the problems of viral latency and the possible role of the virus in carcinoma of the cervix are poorly understood and extremely complex issues. Both are here neatly despatched in seven pages of lucid prose with 110 well chosen references all of which are "used" without obscuring the message in any way.

Epidemiology is similarly treated, a vast amount of material being considered in eight pages and with 97 references.

Herpetic infections of what the author terms "locally defined sites" (oral cavity, lips, genitals, hand and eye) are well described from a clinical viewpoint though whilst the full scope of eye disease for example is covered, the detail is of necessity very brief; nevertheless the references to important and up to date work are all there. The black and white illustrations are well chosen and of high quality.

The section on disseminated infection contains another mass of information ranging from herpes in HIV infection, neurological disorders, atherosclerosis, and Bell's palsy to erythema multiforme and the dermatoses, attracting in all a mere 128 references.

Pathology and pathogenesis bring together a previously rather dispersed body of knowledge which is also subjected to brief critical analysis. The pathogenesis of eye and neonatal herpes are of particular interest (168 references).

Laboratory diagnosis of herpes is well covered and the plethora of ever more complex and expensive tests are well and truly sorted out. Few would disagree with his conclusion that though the future seems to offer many promising new methods of diagnosis, culture of the virus remains the "gold standard" today.

The final chapter deals with the topics of treatment, prevention and control. The problems of herpes in pregnancy and the management of delivery in the mother with recurrent disease are clearly outlined and the efficacy and practicality of the various measures which can be taken are described including the possible use of acyclovir in pregnancy. The position of vaccine prevention is discussed and

brought up to date.

Perhaps the biggest service that Dr Mindel has done is to bring together in the confines of a small and affordable volume a mass of widely scattered data and then to give us the benefit of his experience with herpetic disease in interpreting much of this material.

This is an excellent book which should be read by all physicians in genito-urinary medicine and anyone who has to deal with herpetic disease.

J K OATES

NOTICE

International Symposium on Medical Virology.

This will be held 4-6 October, 1990, at the Four Seasons Hotel, Newport Beach, California, USA.

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